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LEAD U2

NEW YORK, APRIL 23 (UPI)--FORMER PRESIDENT EISENHOWER EXPRESSED SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT CONTINUING U2 RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER THE SOVIET UNION AS EARLY AS FIVE YEARS BEFORE FRANCIS GARY POWERS WAS CAPTURED, LOOK MAGAZINE SAID TODAY.

IF ONE OF THESE PLANES IS SHOT DOWN, THIS IS GOING TO BE ON RECORD," LOOK QUOTED EISENHOWER AS SAYING IN 1955 WHILE BEING BRIEFED ON THE THEN-NEW U2 PROGRAM. "I'M GOING TO CATCH HELL. THE WORLD WILL BE IN A MESS."

A STORY, "THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE U2," BY WASHINGTON NEWSMEN DAVID WISE AND THOMAS B. ROSS, SAID THAT HE OFTEN EXPRESSED DOUBTS AFTER THAT.

BUT HE CONTINUED TO APPROVE THE FLIGHTS BECAUSE MILITARY ADVISERS TOLD HIM THAT THE UNITED STATES NEEDED THE INFORMATION THE HIGH-FLYING PLANE WAS BRINGING BACK, THE MAGAZINE SAID.

MILITARY MEN ALSO ASSURED HIM THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD HAVE TO SUFFER ANY INCIDENT INVOLVING THE PLANE BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT FACE THE HUMILIATION OF REVEALING THAT THEIR AIR SPACE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY VIOLATED, IT ADDED.

THE ARTICLE SAID THAT SEVERAL YEARS AFTER THE 1955 BRIEFING, EISENHOWER TOLD HIS NEWS SECRETARY, JAMES HAGERTY, ABOUT THE U2 AND THAT HE HAD OFTEN ASKED THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA):

"WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU'RE CAUGHT?"

"IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET," WAS THE CIA RESPONSE, LOOK SAID.

THE STORY ALSO SAID THAT FORMER CIA DIRECTOR ALLEN W. DULLES, AFTER EXAMINING PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS GIVEN POWERS THE MORNING BEFORE HE BEGAN HIS FLIGHT, SAID THAT IF HE HAD BEEN ON THE SCENE, HE WOULD NOT HAVE SENT POWERS ON THE FLIGHT THAT DAY.

DULLES DID NOT REVEAL THE SPECIFIC REASONS FOR HIS RESERVATIONS ABOUT POWERS, THE ARTICLE SAID. BUT IT ADDED THAT DULLES KNEW THAT SOME U2 PILOTS WERE WORRIED ABOUT A SYSTEM TO DESTROY THE U2.

IN THE EVENT OF TROUBLE OVER RUSSIA, PILOTS WERE TOLD THAT THE SYSTEM WOULD DESTROY THE U2 AFTER THE PILOT HAD BAILED OUT.

BUT MANY PILOTS WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE SYSTEM DESTROYING THE PLANE BEFORE THEY GOT OUT, OR GOING OFF IN THE PLANE WERE HIT BY GROUND FIRE, THE MAGAZINE SAID.